

POSTDOC SOCIAL EVENTS TEAM DELIVERS FUN



By Andre Schleife

If you're one of the people who like their e-mail inbox to be very clean, you will have noticed that over the last few weeks you were challenged a bit. There were many e-mails from us asking you to join for soccer lunches, Karaoke nights, or clubbing events. Why is that so? Well, the reason is that we are the *Social Events Team of the Postdoc Association* and it is our goal to motivate as many of you as possible to come out and play with your fellow postdocs.

Who doesn't know this satisfying feeling of talking to someone after many hours of hard work in the lab? Who doesn't want to see real people after spending most of their time with computers, spectrometers, lasers, or papers? It doesn't matter if you don't know many people here because you are new to the area, or maybe even to the US, or if you lived in the east bay forever and just want to socialize a little bit with your present and (potential) future colleagues. That is exactly where we, the wonderful Kirsten Howley and I (the strict German),

come into play. We are trying to offer some possibilities of mental distraction to you guys so that you can spend part of your off hours together with fellow postdocs who also need some relaxing in their free time.

Let's get started by summarizing briefly our most recent activities. There was much going on in spring!

We had three happy hours: The first one of them at the "Sanctuary Ultra Lounge" in Livermore with about eight people showing up. The most recent one happened just a few days ago at First Street Alehouse right after the Poster Symposium with a record-breaking 12 people coming out to enjoy dinner and chat about all sort of topics. And then, of course, there was the happy hour that was turned into a Karaoke night at "The Oak Door" in Livermore. Lance, our former president, is very big in the Karaoke business and convinced Charles to chime in. The two of them rocked the place singing beautiful tunes and bravely facing the strong competition of many locals.

SOCIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED



Another type of event that we set up periodically are the famous and beloved postdoc lunches. Since in June Europe was infected with the soccer fever, we devoted a total of three lunches to the UEFA 2012 championship. The crew at the Rockhouse in Livermore was very professional and helpful in setting up the big screen, providing prime spots for a big crowd of about 20 postdocs from LLNL. We cheered for Germany vs. Netherlands, Portugal vs. Spain, and Germany vs. Italy and everyone (except for the Postdocs coming from countries who lost the games ;)) had a good time and a

great lunch. Very recently we gathered a big group of postdocs for buffet-style lunch at Sansar (the picture clearly shows the happy crowd) and in the near future we will continue this series and we will keep exploring the broad culinary spectrum that Livermore has to offer.

And last, but not least, just a few days ago we tried our second Saturday night outing to San Francisco with the goal of exploring the local club scene. Postdocs and their friends met up in Dave's bar close to the financial district to get a good crowd ready for dancing. We moved on to the Temple Night Club where we happily enjoyed current House and Hip-hop tunes on two floors. The club features lots of temple-like decorations, provides fog San Francisco style to cool down the people, and uses powerful black lights and LEDs to turn the white interior in an exciting mixture of violet and shiny colors and shapes (in the rhythm of the music, of course). We all had a great time and we are looking forward to try that out again soon!

Now is when you come into play. You find these things fun and interesting? You are not interested in these activities at all? Excellent, we want YOU in both cases! If you like the kind of things that you saw in this article, just stop by next time when you find one of our many emails in your inbox. Join us and we will be happy to see you! If you don't care at all about the activities that you saw above, we are highly interested in your suggestions and opinions. What can we improve? What would you like to do with some of your colleagues? Let us know because we highly appreciate



SOCIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED



feedback of any kind.

The entire bay area is full of exciting and interesting opportunities, so why not explore some of them with like-minded people from the Lab? Together we can find out if the steam-punk scene in San Francisco is fun. Or what steam-punk is. Or even what punk is! It doesn't matter if you like to spend a survival night out in a tent in the desert grinding and eating cacti* (* the LLPA does not encourage you to munch on endangered species!), practice your trail-building skills, enjoy rock shows or classical music, cheer for your favorite sports team or practice any kind of sport yourself, find a new member for your World-of-Warcraft clan or someone who knows what the wrong put option in your stock portfolio is, or many other things. There is a good chance that amongst the more than 200 postdocs at LLNL there are a few who share your passion and are just waiting to find out who else is out there.

Unlike some of the fields LLNL is involved in, such as destroying asteroids or removing debris in space, the Social Events Team is not rocket science! And unlike the future US president, you don't have to campaign to be on this team either! Everything is on a volunteering basis and absolutely simple: just shoot us an e-mail with your idea of what you want to organize for the postdocs – and you're in! We are, sincerely, looking forward to hearing from you.

The Social Events Team



NEXT STEPS: INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER POSTDOCS

Interview conducted by David Alessi.

When was the end of your postdoc?

Lance Simms: My postdoc ended on May 22, 2012.

Where do you work now and how is that similar or different from what you did as a postdoc?

I got moved over to the Computational Engineering Department from Physics, but I still sit in the same office in the same building. I still work on the same project: Space-Based Telescopes for Actionable Refinement of Ephemeris. But now I'm on it 100% instead of 25%, which means more responsibilities and a bigger workload.

Did you apply elsewhere? Why did you make this particular choice (Lab vs. academia vs. industry)?

Yes. I applied for a position at the Caltech Optical Observatories as a detector engineer. I think that job would have been good, but I really like working on problems that the entire nation is interested in. That's probably the biggest perk of the lab for me.

What did you enjoy the most and the least about being a postdoc at LLNL? What do you think are the differences between a postdoc at the Lab versus at a university?

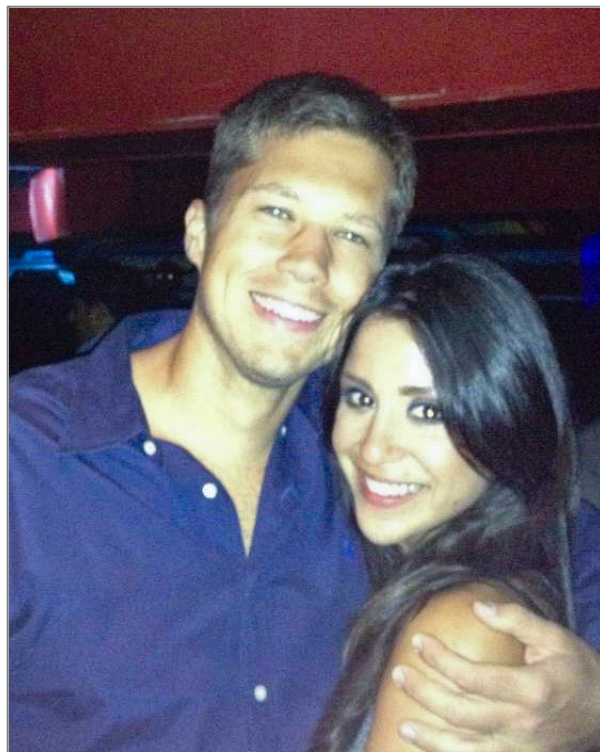
I really enjoyed having my own office. That's probably the biggest thing. As a grad student at Stanford, it was a little disconcerting to see three postdocs crammed into one office and think that might be my next step. I also loved the fact that we get paid so well as postdocs at the Lab. The only downer I can see is having to deal with all the security issues; not being able to bring a personal laptop or Skype from the office...those things are kind of a pain.

How far along your postdoc were you when you decided what the next step in your career would be?

It was about year in. I knew I loved the Lab and wanted to stay here.

How did you get your new job?

I had a number of meetings with my supervisor and division leader right around the 1.5-year mark where I told them I wanted to stay at the Lab and was



ready to take the next step. I also wanted to keep my options open in case they didn't want to convert me, so I applied at the Caltech job and a few others. When Caltech made me an offer, my supervisor helped me push my case for conversion.

What did you enjoy most from being the LLPA president?

The thing I loved most about being the LLPA president was all the opportunities to meet other people and develop new friendships. But it was also cool to get a feel for how money works at the Lab and how decisions get made. The fact that the LLPA can actually have an impact on thinking at the Lab was surprising to me. I think some postdocs think it's just a social activities club. But in reality, we can have a large influence on what goes on at the Lab.

Any piece of advice for postdocs at LLNL?

Don't take your 25% time for granted. You can get a lot accomplished in 10 hours each week, and the fact that you have freedom to choose what you do is priceless.

CAREER RESOURCES

IPPB Brown Bag on Academic Teaching

August 14, 12 – 1:15 pm

LVOC HPCIC Yosemite Room

- Korin Wheeler, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Santa Clara University
- Evan Reed, Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Stanford University
- Robert Herring, Adjunct Professor of Biomedical, Chemical, and Materials Engineering, San Jose State University

PLS Postdoc Seminar Series

August 21, 11 am – 12 pm

B151 R1209 (Stevenson Room)

Joel Clementson and Robert Casperson (Physics)

Academic Briefing on Continuing Education

August 29, 12-1 pm; B1879 Rm A

Still can't get enough of school? Learn about pursuing further graduate degrees, certification, or job-related coursework.



CREDIT: HAL MAYFORTH

Qualities for leadership:

"Great capability will be squandered unless coupled with a healthy ego that is focused on customers and colleagues rather than yourself. A balanced ego-to-capability ratio requires the self-awareness and security to ask for help and surround oneself with others who are smarter, more knowledgeable, or more capable than the leader, and thus complement the leader's strengths and shortcomings."

Greg Duerksen

[Kincannon and Reed Global Executive Search](#)

NETWORKING 101



Attend a careers panel and one of the most common pieces of advice you're likely to hear is to build your network. While good advice, this is often

easier said than done. In [Nature](#), Peter Feibelman identifies steps you can take toward forging productive connections.

First off, it's important to "throw off passivity, self-doubt, and self-pity, and adopt the active mode!" Demonstrating your abilities and interests to fellow scientists early in your career will help others get to know you as a scientific colleague, not just another job seeker. A few simple ways to do this include:

- Initiating an email exchange with an author of a stimulating publication relevant to your field
- Alerting colleagues to new and interesting research papers you've read recently, or leading a journal club session
- Actively seeking out speakers at professional conferences with prepared questions
- Exploring temporary internships or visiting scientist positions in a collaborator's research group

While it's easy to get lost in our own offices, computers, and labs, "budgeting time week-to-week to engage with the scientific community at home and on the outside is not a diversion but an essential activity, part of the life of every working scientist."

JOB LINKS

Science Careers naturejobs.com
The premier science jobs recruitment website

Science – Featured jobs:

<http://scjobs.sciencemag.org/featured-jobs/>

Nature – Jobs of the week:

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/>

Official LLNL jobs site: careers.llnl.gov

Postdoc listings: www.postdocjobs.com

Academic jobs: www.academickeys.com

APS Careers in Physics: www.aps.org/careers

Government jobs: www.usajobs.gov/

Industry jobs: www.indeed.com

<http://jobs.newscientist.com/>

sfbay.craigslist.org/sci/

www.linkedin.com/jobs

NOTES FROM THE LLPA COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 1

Start: 8/ 1/ 2012, 12pm B543 Good Earth room

Participants: Eric Wang, Charles Reid, David Alessi, Nick Be, Christine Zachow, Kris Kulp

Introduction

- Review minutes from previous meeting
- Postdoc how-to guides are currently available on Labbook

Recruiting new LLPA members for council meetings

- Despite its obvious awesomeness, Eric's email did not result in new member attendance
- A proactive approach may be more successful – 1) bring people along from your office area and 2) advertise specific positions and responsibilities that may draw in people with those interests
- Future meetings will occur in B123
- May consider a date change for future meetings due to conflict with engineering brown bag

Social events

- BBQ setup and cleanup went very well. We had great attendance from postdocs, families, summer students, and Thomas the Tank Engine accessories.
- Postdoc clubbing night was a success - another will likely be planned for September
- Will look into scheduling a lunch for August, maybe Olympic-themed (Charles, Eric)

Newsletter

- BBQ article – a short article with good pictures from the event (Eric)
- Ed Moses interview has been scheduled
 - Charles will help out where needed
 - Kris/ Christine will look into purchasing a Lab audio recorder for interviews
 - Eric will handle questions pertaining to wild turkeys/ mountain lions

- Will try to recruit a postdoc for contributing newsletter content (David)
- Article on website for engineering career development? (Charles)
- Article on adjunct professors at the Lab?
- Article on DMTS members?

Postdoc email list

- Christine will look at logistics for creating a moderator system
 - Councilmembers may volunteer to help out with approving emails
- Action plan: anyone can raise any issue on the email list, but they must provide a link to Labbook for further discussion. Any subsequent emails on the same topic will be blocked by moderators
- Details on this system will be sent to postdocs in the next 1-2 weeks

Postdoc website

- Charles now has access
- Need to provide him with an action item list for site development

Career development

- Academic teaching brown bag on 8/ 14: a list of questions from postdocs was sent to the panelists
- Christine will look into HR/ scientist reps who could conduct mock interviews for job-seeking postdocs
- If you see an interesting article for the newsletter careers page, forward to Nick

Lightning talks

- Lightning talks will continue once/ month
- May be able to get funding to provide coffee for general postdoc gatherings (Kris/ Christine)

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS/PRAISE/COMPLAINTS?

Please send your feedback to the Editor (Nathan Kugland, kugland1@llnl.gov).

SELECTED RECENT POSTDOC RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Bold = LLNL Postdoc. *Broadcast your achievements! Make new connections & help show how we are doing collectively.*

Guidelines: 1) Peer-reviewed and accepted publications (journal or conference proceedings) only; 2) Your affiliation must be LLNL; 3) Prepare a standard-format citation with all authors (no *et al*), the full title, journal/proceedings info, and a link to the online abstract; 4) Note which authors are LLNL postdocs, and in what division & group; 5) Send all of this to Nathan (kugland1@llnl.gov).

Chemical Sciences Division, Advanced Materials Synthesis Group: **Olson, T. Y.**; Chernov, A. A.; Drabek, B. A.; Satcher, J. H.; Han, Y. H., "Experimental Validation of the Geometrical Selection Model for Hydrothermally Grown Zinc Oxide Nanowire Arrays," *Chem. Mater.*, 2012, in press.

<http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/nanotation/pipe/abs/10.1021/cm300679x>

Chemical Sciences Division, Energetic Materials Center, Characterization and Compatibility Group: **Kyle T. Sullivan**, Joshua D. Kuntz, Alex E. Gash, "Electrophoretic deposition and mechanistic studies of nano-Al/CuO thermites," *Journal of Applied Physics*, 112 (2), 024316-1-024316-12 (2012).

http://jap.aip.org/resource/1/japiau/v112/i2/p024316_s1

Computation: Aaditya G. Landge, Joshua A. Levine, Katherine E. Isaacs, **Abhinav Bhatele**, Todd Gamblin, Martin Schulz, Steve H. Langer, Peer-Timo Bremer and Valerio Pascucci, "Visualizing Network Traffic to Understand the Performance of Massively Parallel Simulations," *IEEE Information Visualization Conference (InfoVis)*, 2012.

LLNL-CONF-543359.

FORMER POSTDOCS WIN EARLY CAREER PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



Former postdocs **Heather Whitley** and **Jeffery Banks** have won the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest U.S. government honor for scientists and engineers.

Heather won for her work on "path-integral Monte Carlo techniques to produce accurate quantum statistical potentials for use in molecular dynamic codes." Jeffrey won for his work on "computational physics, scientific computation and numerical analysis, especially pioneering contributions in numerical approximations to hyperbolic partial differential equations."



Read more online:

https://pao-int.llnl.gov/news/peoplegrouphighlights/2012/Jul/NR-12-07-02_.html

https://pao-int.llnl.gov/news/peoplegrouphighlights/2012/Aug/ATL-080812_whitley.html

<https://pao-int.llnl.gov/news/peoplegrouphighlights/2012/Aug/ATL-80712.banks.html>

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